



# Parents' Guide to Understanding TCAP Achievement Test Results



## Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program Achievement Test



**CTB  
McGraw-Hill**

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**Forms P–Q**

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## INTRODUCTION

Each spring, Tennessee students in Grades 3–8 take the TCAP Achievement Test. This test measures a student's academic knowledge and skills in mathematics, reading/language arts, science, and social studies. The TCAP Achievement Test contains multiple-choice questions and has set time limits. There is no passing or failing score on the test.

The TCAP Achievement Test provides two types of information on student performance:

- ◆ GRADES K–2 Norm-referenced Test Scores

Norm-referenced test scores show how well Tennessee students do in comparison to a national group of students who took the same test items.

- ◆ GRADES 3–8 Criterion-referenced Test Scores

Students are administered a criterion-referenced test that is required by the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. For additional information about the No Child Left Behind Act, visit the NCLB Web page at <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml>.

Criterion-referenced test scores are used to measure how well a student has learned Tennessee's state curriculum rather than how the student compares with a national group. Criterion-referenced scores are also used to identify student areas of strength or need. For additional information on the Tennessee curriculum and what your child should be learning at his or her grade level, visit the Division of Teaching and Learning Web page at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci>.

Described in this guide are the types of individual student reports that are available for school districts, schools, and parents. These reports include the Norm-referenced Individual Profile Report and Home Report (grades K–2), and Criterion-referenced Individual Profile Report (grades 3–8).

If after reading this guide you have additional questions about the TCAP Achievement Test, contact:

Glen Smith  
Assistant Director  
Achievement  
[Glen.E.Smith@state.tn.us](mailto:Glen.E.Smith@state.tn.us)

or

Jennifer Leathers  
Program Manager  
[Jennifer.Leathers@state.tn.us](mailto:Jennifer.Leathers@state.tn.us)

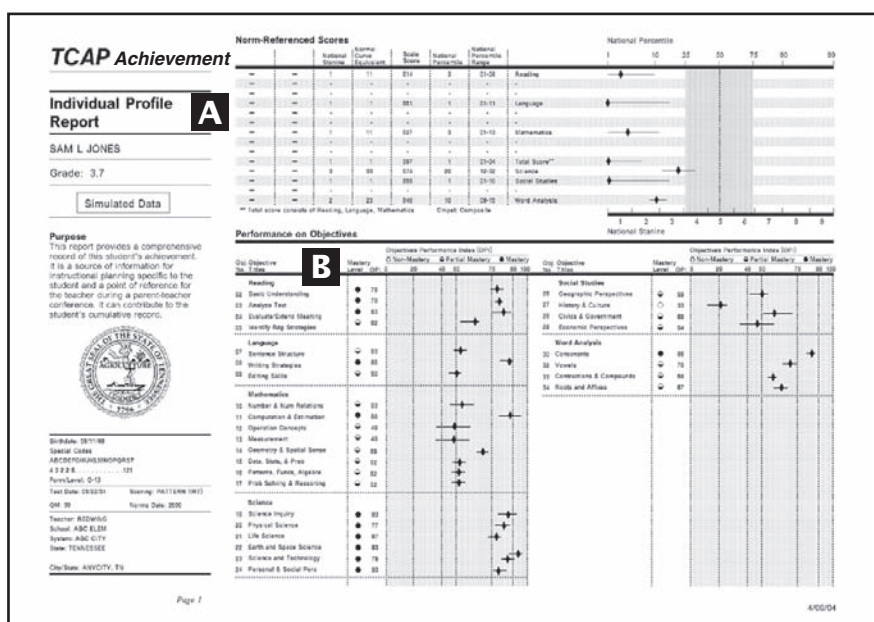
Telephone: (615) 741-0720

For additional information about the TCAP Achievement Test Program, visit the TCAP Achievement Test Web page at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/assessment/tsachhome.php>.



## NORM-REFERENCED REPORTS (Grades K–2)

### Individual Profile Report



A

The top part of the Individual Profile Report shows how your student compares to a national group of students who took the same test items. The norm-referenced results are presented in the following scores:

**National Stanine:** The National Stanine shows your student's scores using a scale that ranges from 1–9. Scores 1–3 are Below Average, 4–6 are Average, and 7–9 are Above Average.

**Normal Curve Equivalent:** The Normal Curve Equivalent shows your student's scores using a scale that ranges from 1–99. Scores from 1–34 are Below Average, 35–65 are Average, and 66–99 are Above Average.

**Scale Score:** The Scale Score ranges from 1–999. These scores are the basis for all other norm-referenced scores, such as the National Stanine and Normal Curve Equivalent. Scale Score ranges for Below Average, Average, and Above Average are different for each grade level and content area tested.

**National Percentile:** The National Percentile is the percentage of students in the national group that your student scored higher than on the test items. For example, a National Percentile score of 75 means that a student scored better than 75% of the students in the national group who took the same test items.

**National Percentile Range:** Because the norm-referenced scores show how your student performed against a national group during this single TCAP Achievement Test administration, the National Percentile Range shows where your student might likely score if he or she were to take the test items multiple times.

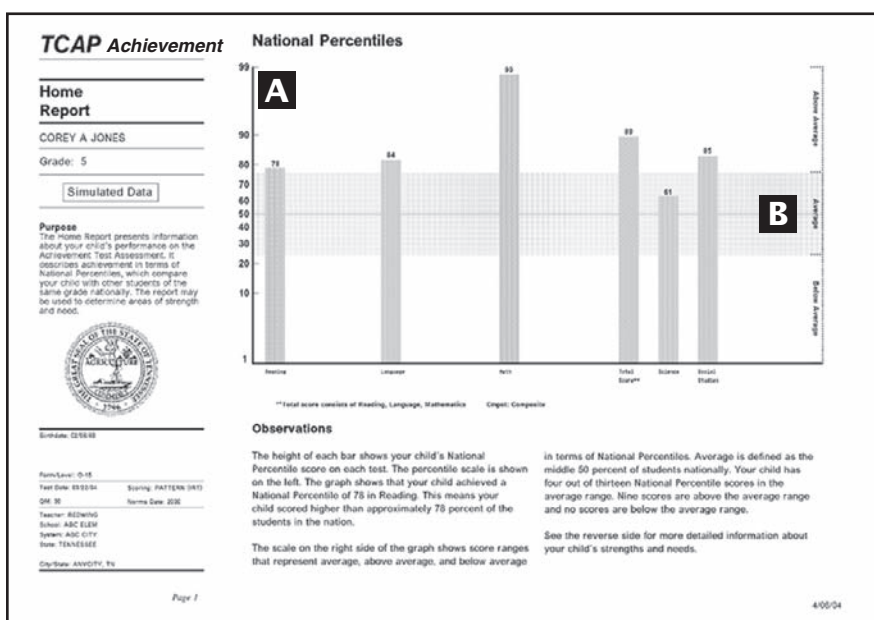
**National Percentile/National Stanine Graph:** This graph represents the National Percentile and National Stanine scores. The diamond indicates your student's score, and the lines on the sides of the diamond are the National Percentile Range. The shaded area in the middle of the graph indicates the Average range.

**B**

**Objective Performance Index:** The Objective Performance Index is an estimate of the number of items your student would be expected to answer correctly if there had been 100 similar items on the test. Scores between 0–42 are considered Non-Mastery; scores between 43–69 are considered Partial-Mastery; and scores 70 and above are considered Mastery.

**Objectives Performance Graph:** This graph represents your student's Objective Performance Index score. The diamond indicates your student's score, and the lines on the sides of the diamond are the range in which your student might likely score if he or she were to take the test items multiple times.

# Home Report



**A**

The Home Report uses shaded bars to represent your student's National Percentile score in each of the content areas measured on the TCAP Achievement Test. The National Percentile score is the percentage of students in the national group that your student scored higher than on the test items. For example, a National Percentile score of 50 means that a student scored better than 50% of the students in the national group who took the same test items. The height of each bar is determined by your student's score—the higher the bar, the better your student scored on that content area.

**B**

The right side of the graph indicates where student scores are considered to be Below Average, Average, and Above Average.

## Page 2

Page 2 of the Home Report also provides written information on your student's areas of strengths and needs as they relate to performance on the TCAP Achievement Test.

**TCAP Achievement**

**Home Report**

COREY A. JONES

Grade: 5

Simulated Data

**Purpose**  
This page of the Home Report presents information about your child's areas of strength and need. This information is provided to help you monitor your child's academic growth.

Simulated Data

Form Level: 5-15  
Test Date: 03/03/04  
Score: 89  
Teacher: JONES, COREY  
School: ABC ELEM  
System: ABC CITY  
State: TENNESSEE  
Copyright: 2003/04

Page 2

10/24/03

Strengths	Needs
<b>Reading</b> Based on these results no strengths were identified. <b>Vocabulary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Word Meaning</li> </ul> <b>Language</b> Based on these results no strengths were identified. <b>Language Mechanics</b> Based on these results no strengths were identified. <b>Mathematics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computation and Numerical Estimation</li> <li>Number and Number Relations</li> <li><b>Math Computation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add Whole Numbers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Science</b> Based on these results no strengths were identified. <b>Social Studies</b> Based on these results no strengths were identified. <b>Spelling</b> Based on these results no strengths were identified. <b>Word Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consonants/Singles, Blends, Digraphs</li> </ul>	<b>Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic Understanding</li> <li>Analyze Text</li> <li><b>Vocabulary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Words in Context</li> <li>Multimeaning Words</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <b>Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sentence Structure</li> <li>Writing Strategies</li> </ul> <b>Language Mechanics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing Conventions</li> <li>Sentences, Phrases, Clauses</li> </ul> <b>Mathematics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Problem Solving and Reasoning</li> <li>Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability</li> </ul> <b>Math Computation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divide Whole Numbers</li> <li>Multiple Whole Numbers</li> </ul> <b>Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science Inquiry</li> <li>Earth and Space Science</li> </ul> <b>Social Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Perspectives</li> <li>Civics and Government Perspectives</li> </ul> <b>Spelling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural Units</li> <li>Consonants</li> </ul> <b>Word Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roots and Affixes</li> <li>Vowels</li> </ul>

Key: ☒ Mastery ☐ Partial Mastery ☐ Non-Mastery



# CRITERION-REFERENCED REPORT (Grades 3–8)

## Individual Profile Report

### TCAP Achievement

#### Individual Profile Report

JOHN SMITH

Grade: 3

Simulated Data

#### Purpose

This report provides a comprehensive record of this student's performance. It is a source of information for instructional planning specific to the student and a point of reference for the teacher during a parent-teacher conference. It provides information regarding the student's performance on the Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics examinations.



Birthdate: 04/12/80  
Special Codes  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNQRST  
411604355.....1.  
Form: P  
Test Date: 04/18/05

Teacher: JONES  
School: BLUEGRASS MS  
System: CLEAR LAKE  
State: TCAP Achievement 05

Your student's performance on each one of the Reading/Language and Mathematics Reporting Categories is shown graphically below. The Performance Level for each Reporting Category is further designated as Below Proficient (designated by an open circle), Proficient (designated by a filled circle), or Advanced (designated by a filled star). The Reporting Categories Performance Index (RCPI) is an estimate of the number of items your student would be expected to answer correctly if there had been 100 such items for the category.

#### Reading/Language Arts Test Results

Your student's scale score for Reading/Language Arts is 475.

This score represents that your student is in the Proficient category for Reading/Language Arts.

This report shows that your student is advanced in: Grammar/Conventions, Techniques and Skills.

This report shows that your student is proficient in: Content, Meaning, Vocabulary.

This report shows that your student is below proficient in: Writing/Organization, Writing Process.

Reporting Categories	Performance Level	RCPI for Student	Below Proficient	Proficient	Advanced	RCPI for Proficient	RCPI for Advanced
1.Content	●	60				39	77
2.Meaning	●	66				39	81
3.Vocabulary	●	57				39	76
4.Writing/Organization	○	31				36	72
5.Writing/Process	○	27				37	71
6.Grammar/Conventions	★	88				41	74
7.Techniques and Skills	★	71				32	53

#### Mathematics Test Results

Your student's scale score for Mathematics is 460.

This score represents that your student is in the Proficient category for Mathematics.

This report shows that your student is advanced in: Measurement, Geometry.

This report shows that your student is proficient in: Number Sense/Theory, Computation, and Algebraic Thinking.

This report shows that your student is below proficient in: Real World Problem Solving, Data Analysis and Probability.

Reporting Categories	Performance Level	RCPI for Student	Below Proficient	Proficient	Advanced	RCPI for Proficient	RCPI for Advanced
1.Number Sense/Theory	●	60				58	87
2.Computation	●	89				84	96
3.Algebraic Thinking	●	68				61	87
4.Real World Problem Solving	○	38				46	80
5.Data Analysis and Probability	○	42				56	81
6.Measurement	★	88				52	69
7.Geometry	★	95				75	92

★: Advanced  
●: Proficient  
○: Below Proficient

Page 1

The Criterion-referenced Individual Profile Report shows your student's performance on test items that measured the knowledge and skills in the Tennessee curriculum. This report is provided for reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies in Grades 3–8.

**A** This part of the report lists your student's scale score and overall proficiency for this particular content area and identifies where your student is proficient and/or needs improvement.

**B** The left column lists the Reporting Categories. To the right of each Reporting Category is a symbol that indicates your student's performance level for that category. (A filled star indicates Advanced; a filled circle indicates Proficient; and an open circle indicates Below Proficient.)

**C** RCPI (Reporting Categories Performance Index) ranges from 0–100 and is an estimate of the number of items your student would be expected to answer correctly if there had been 100 similar items on the test. The minimum RCPIs for Proficient and Advanced are listed in the far-right columns.

**D** This section of the report gives a graphic representation of your student's performance in each Reporting Category.



